



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION INFORMATION NOTICE

Mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution available to you at any stage of the proceedings in your action for dissolution, legal separation or annulment of your marriage or domestic partnership.

Mediation is a voluntary settlement process in which the parties meet with an impartial mediator. The mediator assists the parties to clarify issues, facilitate communication and consider options for settlement in their attempt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. This process is different from the court-controlled process because, in the mediation, the parties make the decisions instead of a judge. In mediation, the parties control the division of their assets, the provisions for child and spousal support and the sharing of their children.

Discussions take place in the privacy of the mediator's office and no court appearances are necessary. When mediation is completed and an agreement has been reached, a written agreement is prepared and filed and a judgment is entered by the court.

THE MEDIATION PROCESS IS NOT SUITED FOR EVERY CASE OR INDIVIDUAL. YOU MAY WISH TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF COUNSEL REGARDING MEDIATION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS.

IF YOU NEED EMERGENCY RESTRAINING ORDERS, MEDIATION IS NOT APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME.

You are encouraged to serve a copy of this fact sheet on the other party when you serve the Petition for Dissolution/Legal Separation/Nullity in this matter.